

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 07294 161021Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /079 W
----- 025738 /11

R 160821Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3781
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 7294

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE
SUBJECT: HONECKER DECORATES BREZHNEV - BREZHNEV'S
PRAISE FOR THE "NEW SOCIALIST BERLIN"

REF: BERLIN 7231

1. THE LEADING EAST BERLIN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED ON
DECEMBER 14, FULL, FRONT-PAGE REPORTS OF THE VISIT BY
SED CHIEF AND GDR HEAD OF STATE HONECKER TO MOSCOW
ON DECEMBER 13 TO BESTOW TWO HIGH GDR DECORATIONS ON
CPSU GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED
AS A "MOVING CEREMONY" CARRIED LIVE ON SOVIET TELEVISION,
HONECKER AWARDED "HERO OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC" AND THE GDR'S "GREAT STAR OF PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP"
MEDALS TO BREZHNEV BEFORE AN ADMIRING GROUP OF CPSU
POLITBURO MEMBERS. THE CITATIONS STATE THAT THE MEDALS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 07294 161021Z

WERE AWARDED BOR BREZHNEV'S "OUTSTANDING SERVICE": WITH

THE RED ARMY IN DEFEATING FASCISM; FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANY FACETED, FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE GDR, AND FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOCIALISM AND FOR THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

2. IN HIS RESPONSE, BREZHNEV IS REPORTED TO HAVE PRAISED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF "SOCIALISM" IN THE GDR, AND THE GDR AS A "FIRM MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY". BREZHNEV ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY "THE NEW SOCIALIST BERLIN". THE SENTENCE IN WHICH BREZHNEV REFERS TO EAST BERLIN AS IT APPEARED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FREELY TRANSLATES AS: "AND WHEN LAST SUMMER, THE LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES GATHERED IN THE GDR'S CAPITAL CITY (DDR-HAUPSTADT) IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, WE FOUND THAT WE EXPERIENCED THIS EVENT, IN MY OPINION, THE DEEP SYMBOLIC MEANING OF THIS EVENT; STRUCK BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANT (EDEL) ROLE, WHICH THE NEW, SOCIALIST BERLIN PLAYS TODAY."

3. COMMENT: THE EAST BERLIN PAPERS REFER TO THE "FRATERNAL AND EXTRAORDINARILY FRIENDLY MEETING" OF THE TWO PRINCIPALS IN WHICH "CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS" WERE DISCUSSED "IN THE SPIRIT OF FULL AGREEMENT". POSSIBLE SUBJECTS INCLUDE THE SHORT-TERM PROGNOSIS FOR FRG/GDR RELATIONS AS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN IN 1977; CSCE MATTERS; AND SOME GENERAL TALK ABOUT GDR/SOVIET RELATIONS (THE 1975 TREATY WAS MENTIONED BY HONECKER IN THE PUBLIC STATEMENT.) HONECKER'S VISIT AT THE "INVITATION" OF CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE LASTED ONLY ONE DAY AND WAS ONLY THE LATEST OF SUCH VISITS BY COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS FROM OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO MSOCOW FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. HONECKER'S VISIT FOLLOWED BY THREE DAYS THE ONE-DAY VISIT OF GDR CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STOPH TO MSOCOW (SEPTEL).

4. BREZHNEV'S WORDS OF PRAISE FOR "SOCIALIST BERLIN" WERE MADE IN AN HISTORICAL CONTEXT - BREZHNEV HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 07294 161021Z

REFERRED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TO THE "ACHIEVEMENT OF SOCIALISM ON GERMAN SOIL (THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GDR) AS AN EVENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR EUROPE". SEEN IN THIS LIGHT, THE SOVIET LEADER'S COMMENDATION OF EAST BERLIN CAN BE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN A KUDO TO HONECKER FOR CHANGING THE CONCEPT OF EAST BERLIN FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NAZI REICH INTO THAT OF A CENTER WHERE COMMUNISTS CAN NOW GATHER

FOR MEETINGS IN RELATIVE TRANQUILITY. BREZHNEV'S
WORDS ON BERLIN SERVE AS WELL TO UNDERLINE THE
IMPORTANCE WHICH THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES TO ITS
INTERPRETATION OF THE STATUS OF WEST BERLIN AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF THE GDR LEADERSHIP WITH THAT CONCEPT.
POLANSKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, HONOR AWARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN07294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760463-0094
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761234/aaaabdnw.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 7231
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONECKER DECORATES BREZHNEV - BREZHNEV'S PRAISE FOR THE "NEW SOCIALIST BERLIN"
TAGS: PFOR, GC, UR, (HONECKER, ERICH), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006